

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) Method for reinforcing an article in a three-dimensional manner, comprising attaching to at least one three-dimensionally shaped surface of said article a tape, film or yarn of a drawn thermoplastic polymer, wherein

~~—said tape, film or yarn is attached to the three-dimensionally shaped surface of said article by means of a heat treatment and/or by applying pressure;~~

~~———said article has been shaped in a three-dimensional manner simultaneously with or before applying the tape, film or yarn; and~~

[[—]] the tape, film or yarn is a drawn thermoplastic polymer of the AB or ABA type substantially consisting of a central layer (B) of a first thermoplastic polymer and one or two other layers (A) of a second thermoplastic polymer, the DSC melting point of the material of the said other layers (A) being lower than the DSC melting point of the material of the said central layer (B), and wherein the tape, film or yarn is applied to said surface of said article in the form of a woven or non-woven cloth.

18. (previously presented) Method according to claim 17, wherein said article comprises a solid thermosetting or thermoplastic material.

19. (previously presented) Method according to claim 17, wherein said article comprises a thermoplastic material of essentially the same composition as said tape, film or yarn, which method optionally further comprises recycling the reinforced article.

20-21. (cancelled)

22. (previously presented) Method according to claim 17, wherein said tape, film or yarn comprises a polyester and/or a polyolefin.

23. (cancelled)

24. (previously presented) Method according to claim 17, wherein said tape, film or yarn is a monoaxially drawn thermoplastic polymer, having a stretch ratio of more than 12 and having an E-modulus of at least 5 GPa.

25. (previously presented) Method according to claim 17, wherein said tape, film or yarn substantially consists of a central layer (B) of a polyolefin selected from polyethylene and polypropylene, and one or two other layers (A) of a polyolefin from the same class as the material of the central layer B, the DSC melting point of the material of the said other layers (A) being lower than the DSC melting point of the material of the said central layer (B), wherein the central layer (B) is between 50 and 99 wt.% of the material and the other layers (A) between 1 and 50 wt.%.

26. (previously presented) Method according to claim 17, comprising the steps of forming the tape, film or yarn in to a shaped material to act as a reinforcing material and applying a covering layer to at least part of the shaped material.

27. (previously presented) Method according to claim 26, wherein upon at least part of the shaped material a layer of foam is applied, before applying the covering layer upon at least part of the foam.

28. (previously presented) Method according to claim 27, wherein the covering layer and/or the foam are selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic olefins.

29. (previously presented) Reinforced article obtainable by a method according to claim 17.

30. (previously presented) Article, of which at least one surface is provided with a tape, film or yarn of a drawn thermoplastic polymer as defined in claim 17.

31. (previously presented) Article according to claim 29, wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of articles for the automotive/bodywork industry (e.g. car doors, mud guards, bumpers, engine covers, dash boards, door styles, clutch handles, clutch covers, safety belt holders), articles for the building/construction industry (e.g. ladders, scaffolds, wall-panels, ceiling panels, laths, cable-troughs, skirting-boards, beams, girders, tubes, pipes), articles for fluid transportation (e.g. tubes or pipes for the water industry, gas industry, oil industry, including

off-shore industry), articles for marine yacht building, articles for ballistic purposes (e.g. protective panels, bomb explosion shells, protective shields, parts for vehicles), articles for medical/para-medical purposes (e.g. orthotic articles, cables, prostheses, tables for surgery, parts for wheel-chairs) and house-hold articles.

32. (cancelled)

33. (previously presented) Method according to claim 18, wherein said article comprises a thermoplastic material of essentially the same composition as said tape, film or yarn, which method optionally further comprises recycling the reinforced article.

34-35. (cancelled)

36. (previously presented) Method according to claim 18, wherein said tape, film or yarn is in the form of a woven or non-woven cloth.

37. (previously presented) Method according to claim 22, wherein said tape, film or yarn comprises a polyethylene, a polypropylene or a combination thereof.

38. (cancelled)

39. (previously presented) Method according to claim 26, wherein said covering layer is a surface finish.

40. (previously presented) Method according to claim 28, wherein said thermoplastic olefins are selected from the group consisting of polyethylenes, polypropylenes, and copolymers of polyethylenes and polypropylenes.

41. (new) Method according to claim 17, wherein the cloth is compacted.

42. (new) Method according to claim 41, wherein the cloth is compacted after the cloth has been placed on the article to be reinforced.

43. (new) Method according to claim 17, wherein the article is shaped in a three-dimensional manner simultaneously with applying the tape, film or yarn.

44. (new) Method according to claim 17, wherein the article has been shaped in a three-dimensional manner before applying the tape, film or yarn.

45. (new) Method according to claim 17, wherein said tape, film or yarn is attached to said article by means of a heat treatment and/or by applying pressure.